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Message Text

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71
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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

BEIRUT PASS DAMASCUS AND BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, XF
SUBJECT: IZVESTIYA ON PALESTINIAN VIEWS

1. SUMMARY. BEIRUT-DATELINED ARTICLE IN IZVESTIYA (MARCH 20) USES INTERVIEW WITH EIGHT WEST-BANK PALESTINIAN REFUGEES TO SUGGEST PALESTINIAN CONSENSUS BEHIND MODERATE APPROACH TO ME SETTLEMENT. AS REPORTED BY CORRESPONDENT KORYAVIN PALESTINIANS ATTACK ISRAELI POLICY IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY JERUSALEM, BUT DECLARE SUPPORT FOR PLO AND PRAISE SOVIET ROLE IN ME SETTLEMENT EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.
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2. PALESTINIANS INTERVIEWED IN BEIRUT STRONGLY ATTACK ISRAELI POLICY OF "ISRAELIZATION" IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, PARTICULARLY JERUSALEM. CHIEF SPOKESMAN IN INTERVIEW, LAWYER ABDEL MOKHSEN ABU MEIZER, CHARGES ISRAEL WITH BUILDING TWENTIETH CENTURY FORTRESSES IN THE CITY AND BY ITS DEMEANOR SAYING "WE ARE HERE AND WILL REMAIN HERE."

3. ON PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT, MEIZER ACCUSES ISRAEL AND "IMPERIALIST FORCES" OF USING EVERY MEANS TO DIVIDE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND WEAKEN THEIR DETERMINATION TO LIQUIDATE ISRAELI AGGRESSION. HE SAYS EXAMPLE IS TEL AVIV PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN CLAIMING PALESTINIANS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ARE FOLLOWING DIFFERENT PATH FROM THOSE OUTSIDE JORDANIAN WEST BANK, GAZA, JERUSALEM, AND OTHER "CAPTURED LANDS." MEIZER REJECTS THESE "FANTASIES," NOTES FORMATION OF PALESTINIAN NATIONAL FRONT, AND SAYS AS REPRESENTATIVES OF FRONT "WE CONSIDER SOLE LEGITIMATE RULER OF OUR PEOPLE TO BE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION."

4. INTERVIEW CONCLUDES WITH MEIZER EXPRESSING PALESTINIAN GRATITUDE FOR THE ROLE SOVIET UNION IS PLAYING IN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE ME SETTLEMENT AND FOR SOVIET SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS.

5. COMMENT: KORYAVIN PIECE IS FIRST MAJOR TREATMENT OF PALESTINIAN VIEWS WE HAVE SEEN HERE IN LONG TIME. GIVEN SOVIET LINE THAT ONLY PALESTINIANS THEMSELVES CAN SPEAK FOR THEIR INTERESTS, APPEARANCE OF STORY SUGGESTS FAVORABLE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD RELATIVELY MODERATE VIEWS OF MEIZER AND LIKE-MINDED REFUGEES. IN THIS REGARD WE NOTE THAT ARTICLE IS DEVOID OF "REJECTIONIST" RHETORIC AND AVOIDS CRITICISM OF EGYPT OR ARAB-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT.
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